2000). The increase in the staff strength by around 81,000 during the year 1999-2000, as indicated in the Expenditure Budget (Vol-I) (2000-2001), is merely an indicative figure and does not imply actual increase.

Debt recovery Tribunals in Karnataka

4637. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Debt Recovery Tribunals for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh functioning in Karnataka;

(b) the number of cases pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunals, Bangalore;

(c) how many out of the above are from banks of Karnataka and how many from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish Debt Recovery Tribunals at Hubli, Gulbarga, Mangalore in Karnataka for speedy disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) One Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) at Bangalore for Karnataka and one at Hyderabad for Andhra Pradesh are functioning for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(b) and (c) DRT, Bangalore has reported that as on 19-4-2000, 1409 cases were pending with it and all these cases pertained to the State of Karnataka.

(d) No, Sir.

Area Plan for Rural Industrialisation in Karnataka by NABARD

4638. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD propose to introduce area plan for Rural Industrialisation in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the taluks which are selected for this purpose;

(c) what are the objectives of the proposed plan; and

(d) the amount proposed to be provided under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that consequent to Government's decision for launching National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) for developing 100 clusters per year beginning 1999-2000, it has been decided to develop 50 clusters in a phased manner. NABARD has identified "Leather" cluster in Athani and Nipani blocks in Belgaum district of Karnataka. The objective of the programme is to generate sustainable income in a selected block/area by financing self-sustaining rural industrial activities with the inter-mediation of a nodal agency to coordinate the required linkage and support services in a systematic manner. This would involve selection of block/area, survery of the area to identify potential rural industrial activities and preparation of draft action plan covering a period of about 5 years indicating the cost and the number of units under each activity to be financed per year. NABARD has released a refinance amounting to Rs. 73.34 crore in Karnataka towards rural industrialisation activities during the year 1999-2000.

Finance Minister's discussion with the World Bank President

4639. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently, visited the United States and held discussions with the President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 19th April, 2000;

(b) whether the President of World Bank assured him that the post-Pokhran sanctions imposed by the World Bank on development loans to India will soon be lifted and that the projects which are pending for two years would now be brought before the Board for reconsideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and progress till date made in this regard, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) During his visit to